

**REMARKS**

Claims 10-15 and 17-20 remain in the application with assembly claim 10 being the only independent claim.

Claim 10 has been amended to distinguish over the prior art patent publication to Lamich et al. More specifically, claim 10 recites that the tank caps 36 are dish-shaped with sidewalls to completely surround a bottom 38 so that the sidewalls 40 engage the encompassing interior of the endless periphery of each open end of the tanks 18, 22. Further, claim 10 recites that the connector portion 37 is connected to a sidewall 40 of the tank cap 36 above the bottom 38 of the tank cap 36.

In contradistinction, the Lamich et al. patent publication shows the connection aligned with the bottom of the caps. In Figure 11, Lamich et al. show a dish shaped end cap but it is not connected to a reinforcement member, let alone connected at the top of the dish-shaped sidewalls.

Applicant has therefore provided a different construction whereby tube-like tanks with endless open ends may be combined with complementary endless sidewalls of tank caps that are integral with side reinforcing members.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. Applicant believes that no fees are due, however, if any become required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

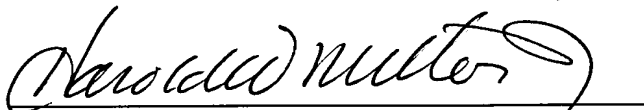


Appln. No.: 10/696,103  
September 1, 2005

Account 08-2789. Further and favorable reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action  
is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.



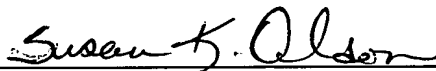
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September 1, 2005

Date

### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment** for U.S. Serial No.: 10/696,103 filed October 29, 2003 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **September 1, 2005**.



Susan K. Olson